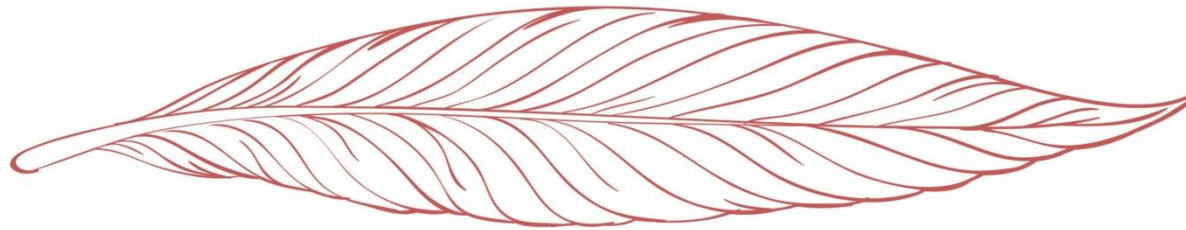


RECONCILING COMMUNITIES

Planting Seeds of Change through
Cultural Education & Truth-telling



November 9, 2017

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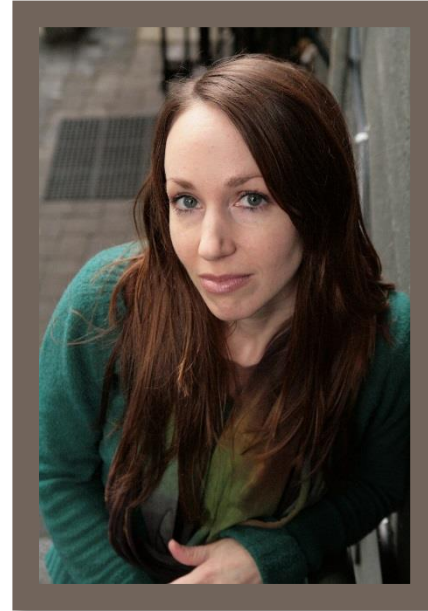
Welcome and Announcements

- ▶ Today's webinar is a presentation of ALA's Public Programs Office and the Office of Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services, with support from ALA's Cultural Communities Fund (www.ala.org/CCF)
- ▶ Visit www.programminglibrarian.org for more online learning sessions, program ideas and grant announcements
- ▶ Tech issues on today's webinar? Send a private message to PPO Admin

Today's Presenters

Melissa Sawatsky

Program and Event Coordinator
Smithers Public Library
Smithers, British Columbia
Canada



Wendy Wright

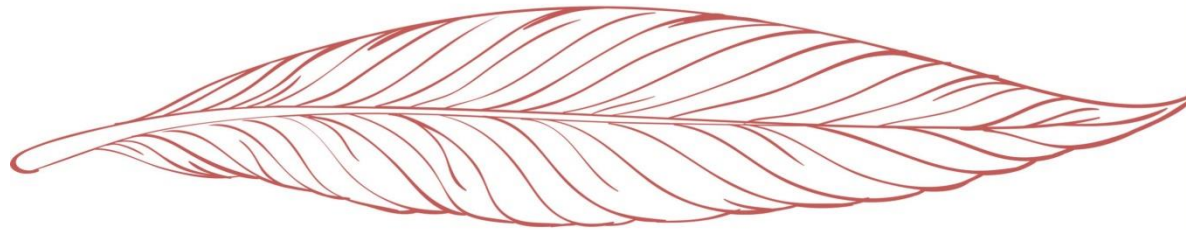
Library Director
Smithers Public Library
Smithers, British Columbia
Canada

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Acknowledging the Territory

Hadih (hello).

We wish to acknowledge the ancestral, traditional, and unceded Gitumden territory of the Witsuwit'en Nation from which we are speaking with you today.

Missiyh' (thank you).

Adapted from
Acknowledging Witsuwit'en Territory: A Guide with Information on the Smithers
Bridging Committee (2016)

<http://www.smitherscommunitydirectory.com/files/SpeakingGuide-Oct2016-FINAL.pdf>

Truth & Reconciliation in Our Community

Why did we choose this event?

Who did we work with?

What did we hope to achieve?

Program Model:

<http://www.programminglibrarian.org/programs/truth-reconciliation-our-community>

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Historical Context

- ▶ Indian Act
- ▶ Indian Residential Schools in Canada
- ▶ National Truth & Reconciliation Commission
- ▶ 94 Calls to Action

WHAT IS RECONCILIATION?

The **Honourable Justice Murray Sinclair**,
Chair of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada:

“Reconciliation is about forging and maintaining respectful relationships: there are no short cuts. Getting to reconciliation will be much harder than getting to the truth. It is not an Aboriginal problem, it is a Canadian problem.”

*Shelagh Rogers, CBC, quoting author **Richard Wagamese**:*

“Reconciliation begins when you lean over the fence and ask me how I am. In my language.”

Evolution of an Idea

- ▶ Community conversation on shared values
- ▶ Ministry of Aboriginal Relations & Reconciliation
- ▶ NW Library Federation & Reconciliation Canada
- ▶ North Vancouver District Public Library & Squamish Public Library events



North Vancouver District
Public Library



SQUAMISH PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Rationale

Why Us?

Aligns with :

- ▶ Community needs
- ▶ Institutional values
- ▶ Current events and national priorities

Why in the Library?

- ▶ Familiar, neutral space
- ▶ Used by all groups for self-directed education, lifelong learning and connecting with others

Question 1

**Are there similar needs in your
community?**

If so, what are they?

Question 2

Do these needs tie in with current issues or initiatives on a broader scale (state-wide, national or international)?

Question 3

What are your library's values or strategic priorities that support dedicating resources to these issues?

Goals

What did we hope to achieve?

- ▶ Educate people about their neighbours' history and culture
- ▶ Inspire personal reflection
- ▶ Encourage empathy and understanding
- ▶ Build relationships

But First...

Are you ready?

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***Become comfortable with being
uncomfortable***

Timeline

ACTIVITY	January 2016	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	Dec. 2016	January 2017	February	March	April	May	June 2017	
Relationship-building																			
Planning																			
Funding																			
Promotion																			
Event delivery																			

Partnerships: Getting to Know You

- ▶ Make it convenient
- ▶ Listen and learn
- ▶ Time and trust



The Who and Why of Partnerships

- ▶ Groups you want to connect with
- ▶ Groups with information
- ▶ Groups that support the event's goals
- ▶ Groups with broad promotional capabilities
- ▶ Groups with social clout
- ▶ Groups with financial support

Smithers Public Library Partners

1. Band Council
 2. Office of Hereditary Chiefs
 3. School District Aboriginal Education Council
 4. Friendship Centre
 5. Indigenous Interpretive Centre and Museum
 6. Settler Museum
 7. Town Community Services Association
 8. Community College
 9. District Chamber of Commerce
 10. Municipal Government
 11. Neighbouring Village's Government
 12. Regional District Government
- SPONSORS**
13. Northwest Library Federation
 14. Wetzin'Kwa Community Forest Corporation
 15. Smithers Bridging Committee

Truth & Reconciliation

In Our Community

Smithers Public Library

Saturday, June 10th

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

ALL WELCOME

An afternoon of learning,
stories, songs, drumming & dancing
as we explore what reconciliation means for us

For more information, call the library: 250-847-3043



NORTHWEST



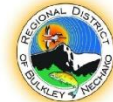
smithers
public library



Dze I. K'ant
Friendship Centre



MORICETOWN Band



REGIONAL DISTRICT
OF BULKLEY & SKEENA



Smithers Community
Services Association



Smithers Bridging
Committee



OFFICE OF THE
WET'S WETEN

Bulkley
Valley
Museum

Bulkley
Valley
Museum



WET'S WETEN

Telkwa

Town of Smithers

Question 4

Who might you partner with in your community, state or country?

Who is an essential partner?

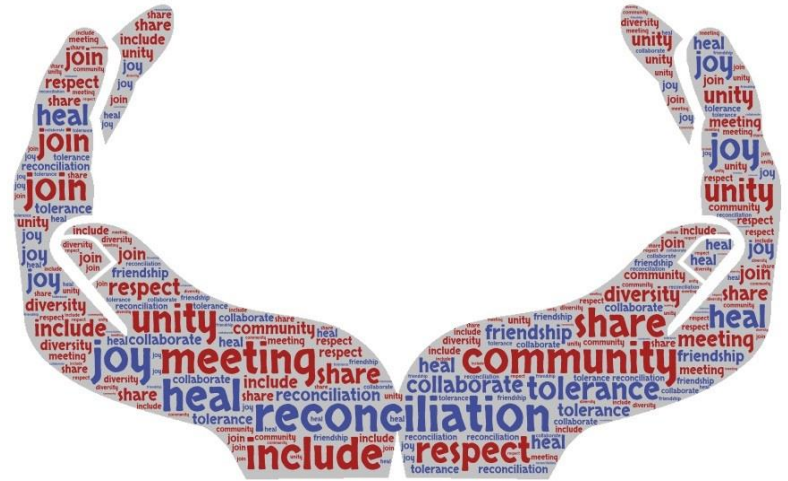
Group Planning



Leonor Pérez Casajús

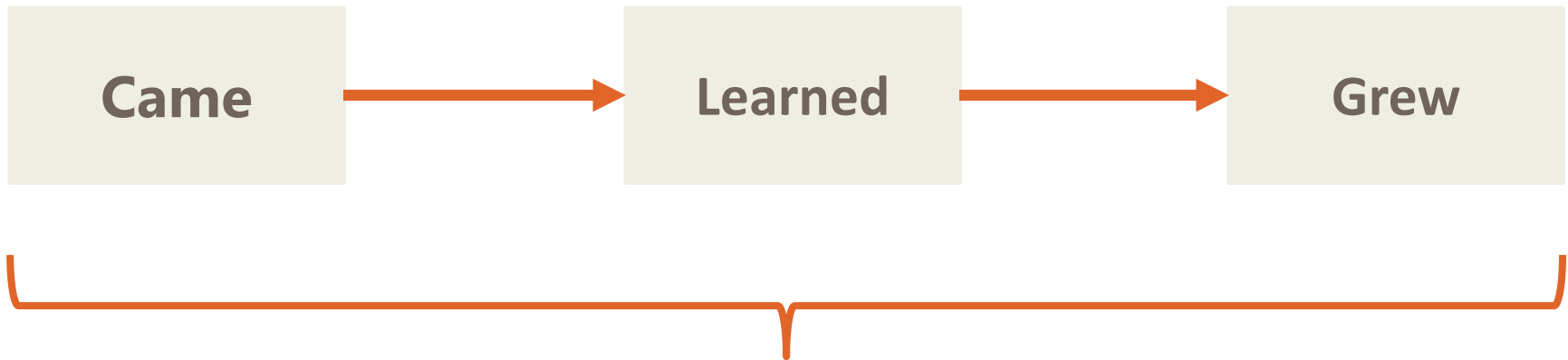
Program

- ▶ Intro and Welcome
- ▶ Reconciling the Past
- ▶ Acknowledging the Present
- ▶ Moving Forward Together
- ▶ Affirmation and Celebration



So, How Did It Go?

Who....



Challenges

Follow-up and Next Steps

- ▶ Debrief
- ▶ Community connections
- ▶ In the works



Photo by [Clem Onojeghuo](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Sne kal yëgh



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